

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition method ~~characterized by~~
comprising:

~~a file request information sending step of, in response to a request for content data,~~
sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content
identification information ~~including and~~ content data attribute information, to an acquire/use
information providing device in response to a request for content data[[,]];

~~an information receiving step of, in response to said sent content data request,~~
receiving via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving side,~~
said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute
information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device ~~data in~~
~~a portion where such~~ in response to the content data request, said content identification
information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no
information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy
device[[,]];

~~a content request information sending step of~~ sending content request information
requesting said content data [[to]] from a content providing device according to said
acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file[[,]]; and

~~a content receiving step of~~ receiving said content data sent by said content providing
device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content data
comprises includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

~~a comparison step of~~ comparing said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with ~~[[the]]~~ a free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception~~[[,]]~~; and

~~a notification step of, based on the results of said comparison by said comparison step,~~ notifying a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

~~a determination step of, after receiving said content data,~~ comparing the data size of received ~~[[said]]~~ content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determining whether ~~or not said~~ the content data ~~[[is]]~~ has been successfully received.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

~~said information~~ receiving via a proxy device ~~[[step]]~~ receives said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing method ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

~~a request information receiving step of~~ receiving file request information ~~[[for]]~~
requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information
~~containing and content~~ attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition
device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and
~~an information sending step of, in response to the received file request information,~~
sending via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving-~~
~~side~~ to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content
identification information and the attribute information of the content data ~~in a portion where~~
~~such, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a~~
data area such that no information is ~~[[not]]~~ removed when the acquire/use file passes through
said proxy device, in response to the received file request information.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing method
according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said attribute information corresponding
to said content ~~comprises~~ data includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing method
according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~information~~ sending via a proxy
device ~~[[step]]~~ sends said acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer
Protocol), said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said data
size information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition device ~~characterized by~~
comprising:

a file request information sending unit configured to send ~~means of, in response to a request for content data,~~ sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information ~~including and~~ content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data [[,]];

an information receiving unit configured to receive ~~means of, in response to said sent content data request,~~ receiving via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving side,~~ said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device ~~data in a portion where such~~ in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device[[,]];

a content request information sending unit configured to send ~~means of sending~~ content request information requesting said content data [[to]] from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file[[,]]; and

a content receiving unit configured to receive ~~means of receiving~~ said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content data ~~comprises~~ includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

a comparison unit configured to compare ~~means of comparing said the~~ data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with ~~[[the]]~~ a free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception~~[[,]]~~; and

a notification unit configured to notify ~~means of, based on the results of said comparison by said comparison means, notifying~~ a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

a determination unit configured to compare ~~means of, after receiving said content data, comparing~~ the data size of received ~~[[said]]~~ content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and ~~determining~~ determine whether ~~or not said the~~ content data ~~[[is]]~~ has been successfully received.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

said information receiving unit is configured to receive ~~means receives~~ said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing device
~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a request information receiving unit configured to request ~~means of receiving file~~
~~request information for requesting~~ an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content
identification information ~~containing and content~~ attribute information of content data, sent
by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data
acquisition device; and

an information sending unit configured to send ~~means of, in response to the received~~
~~file request information, sending~~ via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of the functions of~~
~~the content receiving side~~ to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores
content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content
~~data in a portion where such, said content identification information and content attribute~~
information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the
acquire/use file passes through said proxy device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing device
according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that: said~~ wherein the attribute information
corresponding to said content ~~comprises~~ includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing device
according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said information sending unit is
configured to send ~~means sends said~~ the acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper
Text Transfer Protocol), said acquire/use file storing said content identification information
and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A ~~content acquisition~~ computer readable recording medium storing a program for performing, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a procedure comprising:

~~a file request information sending step of, in response to a request for content data,~~
sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information ~~including and~~ content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data[[,]];

~~an information receiving step of, in response to said sent content data request,~~
receiving via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving side,~~
said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device ~~data in~~
~~a portion where such~~ in response to the content data request, said content identification
information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no
information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device[[,]];

~~a content request information sending step of~~ sending content request information requesting said content data [[to]] from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file[[,]]; and

~~a content receiving step of~~ receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An ~~acquire/use information providing~~ A computer readable recording medium storing a program for performing which when executed by a processor causes the processor to execute a procedure comprising:

~~a request information receiving step of~~ receiving file request information ~~[[for]]~~
requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information
~~containing and content~~ attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition
device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and
~~an information sending step of, in response to the received file request information,~~
sending via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving-~~
~~side~~ to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content
identification information and the attribute information of the content data ~~in a portion where~~
~~such,~~ said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a
data area such that no information is ~~[[not]]~~ removed when the acquire/use file passes through
said proxy device, in response to the received file request information.